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ABSTRACT

This student training module provides an introduction to the floor covering trade. (A companion instructor's guide is available separately as CE 032 882.) The module is designed to introduce trade knowledge and skills to the student. It contains a cover sheet listing module title, goals, and performance indicators; information sheets providing background information about the floor covering trade; supplementary references; self-assessment; self-assessment answers; post assessment; and post-assessment answers for the instructor. Topics covered in the module include the history, trends, working conditions, hiring practices, employment opportunities, and wage scale of the floor covering trade. (KC)

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INDIVIDUALIZED LEARNING SYSTEMS

PRE-APPRENTICESHIP PHASE 1 TRAINING.

INTRODUCTION TO THE FLOOR COVERING TRADE

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Goal:

The student will be able to identify and briefly describe the history, trends, working conditions, hiring practices, employment opportunities and wage scale of the floor covering trade.

Performance Indicators:

The student will demonstrate knowledge of the material by successfully completing a Self Assessment and a Post Assessment.

CE033883

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Information

HISTORY

The use of floor covering increased greatly after the 1920s and into the 1960s with extensive use of concrete flooring in both residential and commercial buildings.

Linoleum was the first smooth surface floor covering to be used, about 1860. Frederick Walton was the inventor of linoleum and the straight-line inlaying machine, which greatly increased the variety of patterns that could be produced. Linoleum and printed felt base production grew until the competition of newer materials forced a decline.

Asphalt tile production exceeded the demand for linoleum in the 1960s. Vinyl floor coverings were first produced around 1945. Vinyl coverings offer a wide variety of types and the proportion of yardage produced is about the same as linoleum.

TRENDS

There were approximately 80,000 floor covering installers employed in 1978. Almost four-fifths of those installers worked with carpets, and the remainder with resilient flooring --vinyl and tiles.

Most installers work for flooring contractors, retailers of floor covering or repair contractors. About one out of three people in the trade is self-employed, a higher percentage than most of the building trades.

WORKING CONDITIONS

Installers work under favorable conditions compared to other construction trade workers. Work areas are often safe and comfortable because floor coverings are almost exclusively designed for interior use and display.

On-the-job physical demands may include kneeling, reaching, stooping, stretching and lifting heavy rolls of carpet. Despite the continual movement and frequent use of hand and power tools, fewer injuries occur than among other construction workers.

HIRING PRACTICES

The majority of floor covering installers learn their trade by working as helpers for experienced installers for 1 1/2 years or through formal apprenticeship programs.

Employers look for applicants that are at least sixteen years old, mechanically inclined, licensed to drive and have a high school education.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

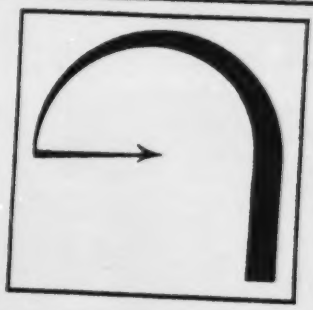
Employment of floor covering installers is expected to increase faster than the average for all occupations through the 1980s. The increase is due primarily to the expected expansion in construction and the more widespread use of resilient floor coverings and carpeting. More job opportunities will be available for those who can install both carpet and resilient flooring, as opposed to those who specialize in one type of installation.

WAGE SCALE

Indications are that floor coverers earned between $7 and $9 per hour in 1978. Apprentices and trainees earn approximately half of the experienced worker's rate.

Installers are paid by the hour, receive a monthly salary, or are paid according to the amount of work they finish. Generally they work regular schedules, unless particular circumstances require working evening or weekends.

Supplementary References



Occupational Outlook Handbook, 1980-81 Edition
United States Department of Labor
Bureau of Labor Statistics
March, 1980

Self Assessment

Complete each statement by writing the appropriate word or phrase in the blanks provided.

1. There was extensive use of concrete flooring in residential and commercial buildings between the _____ and the _____.

2. _____ was the first smooth floor covering to be used about _____.

3. _____ _____ was the inventor of the linoleum.

4. He also invented the straight-line inlaying machine which increased the _____ of patterns.

5. Approximately _____ floor covering installers were employed in 1978.

6. Most installers work for _____ _____, _____ of floor covering or _____ contractors.

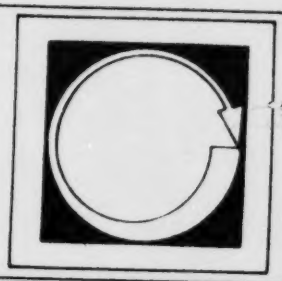
7. Work areas are often _____ and _____.

8. Most floor covering installers learn the trade by working as _____ for experienced installers.

Self Assessment Answers

1. 1920s, 1960s
2. linoleum, 1860
3. Frederick Walton
4. variety
5. 88,000
6. flooring contractors, retailers, repair
7. safe, comfortable
8. helpers

Post Assessment



Select the word or words which correctly answers the question or completes the statement and write its corresponding letter in the blank space provided.

1. ____ Physical demands for carpet installers may include which of the following:
   a. kneeling and stooping
   b. reaching and stretching
   c. lifting heavy rolls of carpet
   d. all of the above

2. ____ Most floor covering installers learn the trade by working as helpers for
   a. 10 years
   b. 1 1/2 years
   c. through formal apprenticeship programs
   d. both b and c

3. ____ Employment for floor covering installers is expected to increase faster than other occupations through when?
   a. 2001
   b. 1980s
   c. 2200
   d. December

4. ____ More job opportunities will be available to installers if they can do the following:
   a. install carpet and resilient flooring
   b. construct a greenhouse
   c. lay bricks
   d. install roofing

5. ____ Installers are paid
   a. by the hour
   b. receive a monthly salary
   c. according to the amount of work they do
   d. all of the above

6. ____ How much to apprentices and trainees earn compared to the wages of experienced workers?
   a. 75%
   b. 50%
   c. 25%
   d. 87%

7. ____ How much did experienced floor coverers earn in 1978?
   a. between $7 and $9 per hour
   b. between $5 and $10 per hour
   c. between $15 and $20 per hour

Instructor Post Assessment Answers

1. d
2. d
3. b
4. a
5. d
6. b
7. a